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Trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1920 L STREET, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 · 202/293-4196

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, October 16, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended October 11 totaled an estimated 18.5 billion ton-miles, 4.2 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 41 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 721 billion ton-miles, 0.8 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended October 11 totaled 451,687 cars, 7.1 percent below 1979, and 1.5 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 7.9 percent in the East, 3.8 percent in the South, and 8.4 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 16 of the 21 commodity groups were down; however, nonmetallic minerals were up 1,541 cars, or 9.6 percent; chemicals and allied products posted a gain of 1,304 cars, or 4.8 percent; and grain was up 1,033 cars, or 3.1 percent. Ten of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended October 4 totaled 34,954 cars, down 9.3 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 62,039 trailers and/or containers, 8.4 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 40 weeks of the year was 1,281,808 cars, 10.7 percent lower than last year, and 2,331,235 trailers and/or containers, down 8.0 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 10/11/80:

| | Loadings in Week ended October 11, 1980 | | Change from Corresponding Week 1979 | | | Change from Preceding Week | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cars | | Cars | Percent | | Cars | Percent |
| Grain | 34,856 | I | 1,033 | 3.1 | I | 112 | 0.3 |
| Other farm products | 5,954 | I | 650 | 12.3 | I | 678 | 12.9 |
| Metallic ores | 25,220 | D | 9,481 | 27.3 | D | 3,286 | 11.5 |
| Coal | 115,962 | I | 321 | 0.3 | D | 1,827 | 1.6 |
| Crushed stone, gravel and sand | 15,399 | D | 3,135 | 16.9 | I | 231 | 1.5 |
| Nonmetallic minerals | 17,661 | I | 1,541 | 9.6 | I | 1,291 | 7.9 |
| Grain mill products | 17,137 | D | 929 | 5.1 | D | 495 | 2.8 |
| Food and kindred products | 17,977 | D | 958 | 5.1 | D | 248 | 1.4 |
| Primary forest products | 20,020 | D | 951 | 4.5 | I | 1,157 | 6.1 |
| Lumber and wood products except furniture | 8,449 | D | 3,356 | 28.4 | D | 943 | 10.0 |
| Pulp, paper and allied products | 19,247 | D | 1,908 | 9.0 | D | 1,877 | 8.9 |
| Chemicals and allied products | 28,687 | I | 1,304 | 4.8 | I | 1,132 | 4.1 |
| Petroleum products | 5,802 | D | 346 | 5.6 | I | 273 | 4.9 |
| Stone, clay and glass products | 15,677 | D | 3,913 | 20.0 | D | 519 | 3.2 |
| Coke | 4,646 | D | 1,974 | 29.8 | I | 634 | 15.8 |
| Metals and products | 14,705 | D | 2,712 | 15.6 | D | 1,741 | 10.6 |
| Motor vehicles and equipment | 18,708 | D | 2,894 | 13.4 | I | 963 | 5.4 |
| Waste and scrap materials | 12,949 | D | 855 | 6.2 | I | 818 | 6.7 |
| Forwarder and shipper association traffic | 11,359 | D | 1,489 | 11.6 | D | 751 | 6.2 |
| All other carloads | 41,042 | D | 4,303 | 9.5 | D | 2,387 | 5.5 |
| LCL traffic | 230 | D | 199 | 46.4 | D | 63 | 21.5 |
| Total Cars Loaded | 451,687 | D | 34,554 | 7.1 | D | 6,848 | 1.5 |
| Corresponding week of 1979 | 486,241 | | | | | | |

| | 1980 | 1979 | % | Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Cars Loaded (41 weeks) | 17,853,793 | 18,885,654 | D | 5.5 |
| Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions): | | | | |
| 40 weeks cumulative | 702.1 | 695.8 | I | 0.9 |
| Week ended October 11 | 18.5 | 19.3 | D | 4.2 |
| 41 weeks cumulative | 720.6 | 715.2 | I | 0.8 |

AARt-101680